Meeting of Minds

- Alumni from two generations follow different paths to business success – but find they have much in common
- Stronger, lighter, cheaper – research team develops new aluminium composite
- Sporting chance – alumni donations make a splash
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Dear Alumni,

Fall is a time of year that I love, because this is when we welcome a new cohort of graduates – and I always enjoy seeing the faces of our fresh graduates, full of expectation as they venture into the world with the support of their alma mater behind them.

The Congregation was held for the Class of 2014 in November, with 4,235 degrees being conferred, expanding our alumni community to over 54,000. Sir Michael Moritz, Chairman of Sequoia Capital and one of five honorary doctorates awarded this year, delivered an inspiring commencement speech.

It was also my delight recently to meet the Class of 2004 on campus in celebration of their 10th graduation anniversary. It was a very warm and happy occasion, and I was glad to see that these alumni have achieved many milestones in both their family life and careers, and are maintaining close ties with their alma mater.

And talking of milestones, the HKUST Alumni Association has reached several of its own under the leadership of President Alvin Lam, and has significantly expanded its reach to the alumni community in the past two years. I was happy to join the AGM-cum-Annual Dinner in November and witness their success. My congratulations go to Alvin and his executive committee who were reelected and will continue to serve for the coming two years.

I recently took a university trip to Mexico along with Vice-President for Institutional Advancement Dr Eden Woon and several faculty members. The purpose of this trip was to explore academic and research collaborations with universities, government and industry. It was our pleasure to meet with alumni and students, and we enjoyed hearing about their developments, and share with them HKUST’s advanced developments as it enters its third decade. We found some very interesting partners that our students will be very interested in.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who have donated to the Alumni Endowment Fund (AEF). Thanks to your valuable support, the fund has experienced steady growth, and as a result more and more students have been able to benefit from various programs. Special thanks go to Jiang Wenyan and Cai Yongjun who have contributed HK$1 million and HK$500,000 respectively – you can read more about them on pages 8 and 9. I hope that alumni will continue to show support to help HKUST and its students scale even greater heights.

I want to mention one particular beneficiary of AEF support: the 1st HKUST Water Sports Festival-cum-Launching Ceremony of the HKUST Water Sports Center in October attracted many water sports lovers – students, alumni, staff and faculty, who competed fiercely in various races, as you see from the photos on pages 12 and 13. I’m thrilled to see that sporting spirit is soaring on campus!

Elsewhere in this issue of Alumni News we focus on the entrepreneurial spirit of our graduates, and look at the different ways in which alumni have found success. Whether it is in a traditional industry or a startup, it is HKUST’s goal to foster a “can do” attitude among our students alongside the knowledge they gain from studying here.

Finally, it is my pleasure to wish you all a happy and prosperous 2015, wherever you are in the world!

Best wishes,

Professor Tony F Chan
President

Professor Chan with Sir Michael Moritz, Chairman of Sequoia Capital and one of the five honorary doctorates awarded this year. Sir Michael delivered the commencement speech at the Congregation.
**Feature**

**TWO GENERATION TWO PATHS**

Two generations of alumni come together to discuss the similarities and differences of running a business – and how HKUST helped equip them to face challenges.

With HKUST now into its third decade, distinctly different generations of alumni are now established in the outside world. Today’s graduates face business and social environments that are very different to those experienced by alumni 20 years ago, thanks mainly to the influence of new technologies.

An observation of generational differences took place recently when four graduates came together to talk about their successes and challenges. One on hand, there was Wesley Lee, BBA Finance, CEO of Xinyi Solar Holdings Limited (信義光能控股有限公司), who graduated in 1999, and on the other Leo Wong, BBA Marketing, Ben Chan, BEng Computer Science and BBA Management, and Conrad Lo, BBA Finance, co-founders of music app Sensbeat – Leo and Ben graduated in 2014 and Conrad in 2013.

Wesley has followed a traditional career path in the industrial sector, but his vision and understanding of markets has led to success at a young age. It hasn’t been easy and he has had to steer the company through tricky waters. Leo, Ben and Conrad took a riskier route; they set up their startup while still at University and not least among their earliest challenges was the need to find a balance between study and work.

Today, both Wesley and Sensbeat are award winners. Wesley was recently been named in the Young Industrialist of the Year Award 2014 by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, and received the Science and Technology First Class Award in Wuhu City in 2012. Sensbeat has been honoured as Champion of HK Young Entrepreneur Challenge 2013, Grand Prize of Ignite Entrepreneur Challenge (International Category) 2013 and “Top 5 most innovative app in 2013” by Global Mobile Internet Conference.

When the four entrepreneurs came together in the boardroom of Xinyi Solar in Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks, the rapport was immediate, despite the generation gap. All were proud of their common link of HKUST, and were intrigued by their companies’ differences and eager to share their stories.
TO SUCCESS
Bright & Clear Ideas

Wesley joined Xinyi Glass right after graduating. It was a China-based company specializing in automotive glass, plus smaller volumes of architectural glass. As executive director, he oversaw export sales and finance. Growth over the next few years was steady. By 2003, the company was looking to invest HK$2 billion in a new plant in Dongguan as part of its long-term development plans, so it began to prepare an IPO. It listed in Hong Kong in February 2005. Xinyi Solar was established as a subsidiary the following year, with turnover climbing steadily to HK$1,968 million by 2013. Under Wesley’s direction, the solar business was spun off, and Xinyi Solar – now the largest PV glass manufacturer in the world with a 20% market share – was listed in December 2013.

Xinyi Solar’s start was tough at the beginning because of market uncertainties. “Although we could see a bright future for solar energy, the global financial crisis affected the European market in particular,” he says. “Solar energy needs big investment in terms of production, but banks were not lending because of the crisis. And then the solar market crashed in 2011 because of oversupply.” He explains the company’s response: “We looked at the fundamentals of the industry. We needed to cut costs, improve production efficiency and change our market strategy, but we were confident that people’s focus on the environment meant the future looked bright.”

He puts the subsequent success down to Xinyi’s solid background in glass manufacturing technologies, and its strong corporate culture of teamwork. A major development has been the development of downstream operations, through the establishment of its own solar farms. “As a buyer through our solar farms and a supplier of solar glass we really are promoting the product,” says Wesley. The company now has two production bases in Wuhu and Tianjin, producing 2,900 tonnes of solar PV glass combined.
Sharing & Developing Ideas

Sensbeat’s social-sharing app was launched in August 2014. The original idea came from Leo: “I was on my exchange in Europe and was traveling on a train in Switzerland listening to ‘Goodbye’ by Air Supply surrounded by all these mountains. I felt sentimental and wanted to share my feelings with friends in Hong Kong. We have Twitter and Instagram for words and photos, but what about music?”

On his return to HKUST, he put his idea to his friends to develop an app that lets users post status updates based on the song they are listening to. Inspired by startups in the US, Leo, Ben and Conrad set up Sensbeat while still studying. “We decided to make it work. The initial cost was not much – we had the people and the technology. We received financial awards from competitions and were able to find more people to join, especially engineers,” he says. But as more funding was required, it was not always easy to open doors – Sensbeat had no track record and it was difficult to get to speak to senior managers. “We spoke with judges at the competitions, we approached friends of friends. We found that as we met one group, it got easier to meet others.” The result was that they have to date been able to secure US$1 million in seed funding from local and US investors – the first student-established startup in Hong Kong to achieve this.

“Our target now is to get more users and keep updating the product by refreshing our ideas,” says Ben. Conrad adds: “Most of our users are teenagers so our promotional activities target this group and we get back feedback from university and middle school students.” They say the key to growth is that they work together as a team and support one another.

Leo, Ben and Conrad took a riskier route; they set up their startup while still at University and not least among their earliest challenges was the need to find a balance between study and work.

Excellent Foundation

All are grateful for the knowledge and confidence given them by HKUST. “The University helped me to see things from a different angle,” says Wesley. “You get to see the big picture. It helps you to make better decisions.”

Ben appreciated the friendly, collaborative atmosphere at HKUST. “All my friends were enthusiastic about startups and there were many chances to talk – how to build things and how to start your own business,” he says. Conrad liked the mix of local and international students, offering different points of view and different definitions of success.

Although the two business models of Xinyi and Sensbeat may appear very different, the four alumni agree there are similarities. “There are factors that you always have to pay attention to when running any business, such as how to secure funding and dealing with investors and the importance of having a good team in place,” says Wesley.

And Ben, Conrad and Leo can see that creativity is not just a “post-90s” phenomenon, noting that Wesley had to think out of the box to develop the new product line and expand into solar power farms. “We also laughed at the fact that it took Wesley’s company just six months to build a huge power plant in Anhui, while it took us more than six months to create one app,” says Leo.

Whatever the future holds for Xinyi Solar and Sensbeat, they surely serve as excellent role models for future graduates, whether they are looking to move into traditional industries or grab opportunities offered by new technologies.
Building Towards a Better Future

The development of a new aluminium composite by a team from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is set to change the face – in some cases, literally – of the building industry and herald a greener future.

Cheaper, lighter and stronger... these are the irresistible properties of a new aluminium composite developed by a team led by Professor Ben YB Chan, Associate Director, Center for Engineering Education Innovation in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CIVL). The new material, called Fiber Reinforced Aluminium (FRA), has been developed with support from UC RUSAL, a leading global aluminium producer from Russia.

“FRA is a mixture of carbon fiber and aluminium. It is stronger than existing aluminium, cheaper and lighter than steel, and can be used with insulation panels to produce a Smart-building envelope system that effectively reduces indoor temperature fluctuation, as well as halving labor costs and construction times compared with steel and concrete systems,” says Professor Chan, who is himself an alumnus of HKUST.

Carbon fiber is extremely light and strong, hence its extensive use in the automobile and aviation industries; while aluminium is also light but is not strong. Professor Chan explains that layers of the two materials can be stuck together, but the results can be disappointing because the carbon fiber is too smooth to stick securely, while the glue deteriorates.

His team sought out a different approach. “We have changed the composition of the carbon fiber using nano technology,” he says. “We created a “fishbone-shaped” carbon fiber using chemical vapor deposition (CVD) technique, metal particles can be bonded to the sharp ends. The result is a chain of metal particles that can stick to other metal particles.” This is mixed with aluminium particles and heated up to 700°C, increased to 1,000°C, then cooled quickly so the substance melts. The result is FRA, which has a strength of at least 100GPa, but generally 130GPa, compared with 65-75GPa for traditional aluminium alloy.

FRA is made using recycled industrial waste, which helps reduce the cost of manufacture, as does the “fishbone chain” shape. “This is not as precise a shape as the traditional carbon nanotube,” says Professor Chan. FRA costs US$550/kg compared with US$2000/kg for carbon nanotube.

Thanks to its relative lightness, strength, corrosion resistance and cost, the applications for FRA are numerous, and include electronic products, automobiles and aircraft, as well as construction materials. Professor Chan says, “We are happy with the product but we want to look at long-term issues, such as fatigue and corrosive environments, and want to perform a full set of tests.”

As a part of the project, the CIVL team is using the FRA to produce a greener building envelope system. Professor Chan explains that current façade systems, designed to reduce heat loss, control moisture, prevent leakage and protect the people inside, encounter many problems, and the energy efficiency achieved is only 20% of that anticipated.

A lot of work has gone into improving building envelope systems, he notes. Some of it has focused on “phase-change material”, which is a substance that, when it melts and solidifies at certain temperatures, stores or releases energy. “Can we design a building that saves energy by absorbing energy when the ambient temperature is high and releases energy when the temperature is low? Ten years ago, there was a lot of research into this, but it was not very successful, because scientists could not find an efficient material that would melt at 20°C,” says Professor Chan.

“However, our team is looking at this from a different perspective. We investigated the time lag that occurs when water changes to ice, and vice versa. By extending that period of time, by using phase-change to reduce the maximum temperature, we can achieve 60% energy saving.”

Their research has resulted in the development of lightweight panels consisting of layers of FRA, PCM, gypsum board and polyisocyanurate foam that exceed the basic requirements of building codes in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing and Moscow. “We have developed the prototype and are testing the mechanical properties and energy...
efficiency in our laboratories,” says Professor Chan. “The results are encouraging. We are working with RUSAL on this green-building system, and they have first option on this project.”

The collaboration with RUSAL, which is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, came about in 2011 when the Russian company approached HKUST with a view to strengthen scientific and business ties between Russia and Hong Kong.

For Professor Chan, the project has been a golden opportunity, and his enthusiasm for the project is very evident. He is also an excellent role model for new alumni and students, as he himself studied at HKUST. He graduated in 2000 from what was then Civil and Structural Engineering, and went on to do an MPhil, also at HKUST.

“I worked in industry for one-and-a-half to two years, but then thought about doing a PhD. My interest was in bridge engineering, and one of the key academics in this field was Professor Moe Cheung at the University of Ottawa, but he then moved to HKUST! I wrote him a proposal and it was accepted, and I completed the doctorate at HKUST in 2008. And then I joined the faculty.”

Professor Chan confesses that although he always liked carrying out research, originally he did not consider that he would do a PhD. “It is not easy to achieve, but the faculty here encouraged me and helped me with advice and providing connections with industry. It is a good place with good people.” As much as he loves the research, he also appreciates the opportunities he gets to encourage engineering students, especially those in the first year, through the Center for Engineering Education Innovation. “At EII, I provide mentoring to young engineers. It is very valuable, because good advice can really help in their careers – and I enjoyed the benefits of mentoring at HKUST myself.”
Giving Back

The Alumni Endowment Fund (AEF) is showing steady growth, thanks to the generous support of alumni. More than HK$500,000-worth of interest income was allocated in 2013-14 to the benefit of students. A portion of this went towards water sports activities. Not only is our campus located by the sea, but it is on a particularly sheltered stretch of water perfect for water sports.

‘SEAING’ BENEFITS

Water sports are popular with many students – including those who would never have thought of participating when they first enrolled at the University. Sports play an important role in helping students develop all-round personalities – as well as being good for the well-being of mind and body. And for those talented sportsmen and women on campus, being part of a team and representing HKUST in various competitions engenders a spirit of pride in the University.

The objective of the recently established HKUST Water Sports Center is to act as the Home Port for the University’s water sports clubs, be a qualified center as the on-campus training partner with external water sports organizations and to organize student events.

The facility focuses on dragon boating, open-water rowing, canoeing & kayaking and so on.

The Center celebrated its official opening with the 1st HKUST Water Sports Festival on October 11, with alumni participation (for more details, see pages 12 and 13). It has been up and running for over a year, however, and between April 2013 and June 2014, 58 water sports courses or workshops were held, benefitting 378 students. More training courses will be launched in 2014-15.
More than 500 alumni donors contributed to AEF in 2014. HKUST is especially grateful for the generous donations from two major donors, Jiang Wenyan and Cai Yongjun. Two rooms at the Library are named in acknowledgement of their support.

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Alumni Endowment Fund Donation Form

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Online Donation: www.alumni.ust.hk/AEF
KEEP IN TOUCH!  With an alumni body of over 54,000, HKUST has graduates in all corners of the globe. If you live overseas and haven’t yet hooked up with fellow graduates in your area, why not contact your local alumni chapter – and if there isn’t one, then you could start a group yourself!

Mexican Meet-up
President Professor Tony Chan, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement Dr. Eden Woon and several faculty members took the invaluable opportunity during their university visit to Mexico to host the first-ever reunion there. Alumni and students were overjoyed to be kept abreast of the soaring advancements of their alma mater and also shared their working and living experiences. The dinner was facilitated by Camilo Ángel Díaz.

Dim Sum Date...
Boston is one of the cities in the US that is gathering a growing population of HKUST alumni. The inauguration of the Boston Chapter was marked when a group of alumni reunited for a wonderful dim sum lunch on a weekend in October. Thanks to Craig Yu for making it happen! Stay tuned for upcoming events.

... and More
Another pleasant dim sum lunch brought together alumni in New York. Everyone was delighted to have the opportunity to share their life and career experiences. Thank you to Carolyn Xu for lining this up!

The past few months have been particularly vibrant for the Singapore Chapter. In August, they joined their counterparts from other universities in Hong Kong at the Joint University Mid-Autumn celebration. The Japanese lunch gathering took place once again at alumnus Daryl Chow’s restaurant in September, and the Marina Bay Walk happened in November. All events made available valuable opportunities for alumni to expand their networks and reconnect with each other.
Busy Shenzhen

Because of its close proximity to Hong Kong, Shenzhen attracts many alumni to join the events staged by the Shenzhen Chapter. Professor Tony Chan and Dr Eden Woon were excited to meet with over 100 alumni and students at the drinks reception in May. The charitable “Walk for Love” in June not only highlighted the persistence of alumni, but also raised over RMB400,000 for the One Foundation! The Banff Mountain Film Festival Tour and the reading sharing and marathon, initiated by the group “Books & Miles”, received overwhelming support from alumni in Shenzhen.

Shanghai Variety

A broad spectrum of programs has been organized by the Shanghai Chapter from time to time, drawing alumni closer to each other. Apart from the large-scale distinguished alumni lectures, the regular monthly yum cha gatherings, sports day and community services enable alumni to renew ties and meet new friends.

In Good Taste

Alumni in Beijing were delighted to meet HKUST Alumni Association delegates from Hong Kong at a buffet dinner organized by the Beijing Chapter in September. They appreciated this wonderful occasion to update each other on their latest happenings. In November, alumni paid a visit to an orphanage in Hebei, where they spent a pleasant weekend with the lovely kids. WeChat ID: ccfaucc

Kick-off Event!

The exciting soccer match between Guangzhou Evergrande and Guangzhou Fuli in May attracted fans of both teams to join the first gathering staged by the Guangzhou Chapter. It was followed by a baking-themed cocktail party two weeks later where alumni learnt the secret of baking from a chef from a five-star hotel. In August, alumni were invited by EMBA alumna Nancy Tsui, Chairperson of DL&C, to a charity cocktail party and celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival together. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to catch up. WeChat ID: powerkingjames
Sporting activities are flourishing at HKUST – and alumni are playing an important role in the growing popularity. Various alumni sports clubs organize regular activities and take part in competitions; not only is this a great way for graduates to keep in shape, but it also helps them keep in touch with old classmates as well as forge new friendships.

Alumni sports interest groups include the EMBA Alumni Walkers’ Club, Alumni Dragon Boat Club, Rowing Team Alumni Association, MBA Alumni Association Dragon Boat and Alumni Golf Club, while other alumni groups organize different sports events for members from time to time.

EMBA Alumni Walkers’ Club (行者俱樂部)
The Gobi Challenge is the club’s annual signature program that brings together a group of keen hikers who seek to take up this huge challenge. In May, they took part in the highly testing Pilgrimage Journey of Xuan Zang (玄奘之路), a hike of about 112km, and won the Shackleton Award. The club organizes various hiking activities all year round.

Alumni Dragon Boat Club
The 30 paddlers undergo regular training from February to July each year. Apart from winning a number of open local competitions, the team also participates in international races, including the Okinawa Dragon Boat Festival and the forthcoming race in Taiwan next year.

Alumni Golf Club
The club aims to promote golf among HKUST alumni, staff and students through organizing and participating in different tournaments. Join them if you are also a golf enthusiast!

Rowing Team Alumni Association
A keen supporter of both HKUST and open local competitions, the association has a history of more than 15 years. Over the years, the rowers have won many championships in a variety of races.
At HKUST, over 30 sports clubs are affiliated with the Students’ Union. The HKUST Water Sports Festival 2014-cum-Launching Ceremony of the HKUST Water Sports Center, sponsored by the Alumni Endowment Fund (AEF), took place in October. The campus, being on the waterfront, is ideal for a range of water sports including dragon boating, sea rowing, windsurfing, kayaking and sailing; the new center further boosts the University’s water sports culture. Apart from assisting the festival, AEF also plays a crucial part by supporting athletics sports awards and athletic undergraduate recruitment scholarships.

HKUST Sports Team
A comprehensive range of sports activities are organized by student sports clubs. They are enthusiastic participants of inter-collegiate, local and international sports competitions. They have brought back trophies and awards, and, most importantly, a broader vision of the world and life beyond the campus.

HKUST Water Sports Festival 2014-cum-Launching Ceremony of the HKUST Water Sports Center
The festival attracted a good number of students, alumni, staff and faculty, with many competing fiercely in various races including rowing, canoeing, dragon boating and water polo on campus in October. Training and workshops are provided to students by the Center from time to time, to further develop water sports right here.
How did you get involved in the Relocation Program?
Ruby: My exchange-out was in Calgary, to study at the University of Calgary. The Development and Alumni Office (DAO) invited students to join the Relocation Program and I thought it looked very useful, as I knew nobody in Canada! It would also be my first time overseas by myself, and it would be helpful to have someone who could help if I had an emergency. I could also ask questions in advance about the weather and what to bring with me.

What did you need to do to enroll in the program?
Ruby: I filled in a form online with my details and basic information. DAO sent emails so that the host, Iris Lai, and I could introduce ourselves to each other. Iris actually lives in Banff, which is near Calgary. She is a BBA graduate of 1999. She has traveled quite a lot since graduation – she has lived in Germany as well as North America and understands the concern of being alone in a strange place.

What advice did Iris give you about Calgary?
Ruby: It is extremely cold in winter – around -20°C on average, and it got down to -40°C while I was there! Iris advised me to bring lots of warm clothing, but also to dress in layers, because everywhere is heated indoors. She also advised me on safety in the city, and arranged a conveniently located hotel for me when I first arrived in the city.

As well as practical advice, how else was she able to help?
Ruby: The host serves as a friend who is there when you need them. They help prepare you mentally for your exchange-out by giving advice before and during your stay.

Would you consider becoming a host in future?
Ruby: Sure I would! Someone helped me and so it would be good for me to help others in return. For the host, it is also a good way to keep in contact with latest happenings at HKUST.

What did you like about Calgary and the surrounding area?
Ruby: I was there for four months and I loved it. Sure there was a lot of snow, but the natural scenery of the Rockies is beautiful. I made friends and I went skiing. Plus the air there is so clean.

What are your feelings about the exchange-out program in general?
Ruby: It is a good way to understand more about the real world. You can read about other places, but it is different to experience it yourself. It is also about the real challenges you face – it is a way to become more independent. Also, you learn about other cultures and their way of life. I took a business and marketing course there, as well as studying the sociology of Canada and international relations. I carried out two projects alongside other students and you can learn a lot about the way others approach their work.
Dear fellow alumni,

I am pleased to let you all know that the new session of A1 is now underway, and I am honored to be elected as the President of HKUST Alumni Association again.

We held our Annual Dinner on October 30, when we celebrated our achievements:

- We have held between three and four alumni events each month, catering to many different interests, for example a jewelry appreciation workshop, sharing on travel and wine, as well as a visit to Cathay Pacific City;
- We have created a platform of over 100 alumni entrepreneurs;
- We are proud to have nurtured a strong “Giving Back” culture, having accumulated 1,677 service hours with over 213 alumni volunteer members, with causes ranging from children, youths and the elderly to ethnic minorities and abandoned animals;
- We have been named “Caring Organization” by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service for the eighth consecutive year.

In other exciting updates, the HKUST Alumni Association Limited was officially inaugurated on October 30. We intend to put more emphasis on community service in the future, and we have set up the A1 Fund to help alumni in urgent need, provide scholarships and help the needy in the community.

Going forward, we hope to build on the momentum and introduce more membership welfare, boosting membership, growing the A1 Fund, strengthening relationships with Mainland alumni and creating a long-term sustainable model of the A1 Executive Committee.

Please stay tuned for many fabulous events ahead, including Christmas party and New Year celebration, luxury watch appreciation, CEO dinner and many more. Follow us on our Facebook page!

I am happy to once again gather over 30 enthusiastic alumni to serve and learn with me for another term. Thank you for all your support.

We are also recruiting new Exco members for the Young Alumni Team and other operation teams. If you want to contribute and meet new buddies, please email me at alvin.lam@ustaa.hk.

Yours sincerely,

Alvin Lam
President, HKUSTAA Session 2014-16
Event Roundup

Entrepreneurs, Bubbles & Sport

Continuing the success of the previous Joint Entrepreneurship Speaker Series Event, the MBA Alumni Association co-hosted the third, entitled "HR & Recruitment Entrepreneur", with the HKUST Alumni Association in June. Well-known entrepreneurs shared their success stories on starting their own consulting companies in the HR and recruitment industry.

The champagne-tasting session in July attracted a group of "bubbly" lovers who learnt about various champagnes from alumnus J.B. Deal, while connecting with HKUST buddies.

MBAAA maintains a number of sports clubs. The September Biztral – Sports Clubs United brought together representatives from dragon boat, hiking, football and sailing clubs. Alumni reconnected with old comrades-in-arms as well as exploring their new sport interests at this special occasion.

New Board Elected

The election meeting of the Environmental Management and Technology Alumni Association was staged in September, with a new executive committee board being appointed by members. The Annual General Meeting followed in mid-October.

Perfect 10

The Homecoming Reunion for Class of 2004 was held on October 25 on campus in celebration of the 10th anniversary of their graduation. Hosted by President Professor Tony Chan and Vice-President for Institutional Advancement Dr Eden Woon, the luncheon provided a great opportunity for alumni to reconnect with one another and learn about the latest developments at their alma mater. The climax of the event was the lucky draw, featuring attractive prizes including hotel buffet coupons and return air tickets to Bali. The occasion was followed by a tour of the newest student halls.

Outstanding Contribution

Since 2013, the Biochemistry Alumni Association has staged a series of interviews featuring outstanding biochemistry alumni and professors. The most recent interviewee was Professor Karl Herrup, Head of Life Science, who shared his vision of HKUST and his outlook on life.

What a Goal!

A group of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering (MAE) alumni and students congregated on campus in mid-November for sports day, which included a series of fiercely competed soccer matches. The sports day was organized by the Mechanical Engineering Graduates' Association, and followed by the annual dinner, hosted by the MAE Department.
Decade Dinner

2014 marks the 10th graduation anniversary of the Part-time MBA Class of 2004 (intake 2002). In September, over 80 alumni spent a delightful evening celebrating this memorable milestone. The dinner was marked by plenty of laughter as they reconnect with each other and reminisced about the good old days a decade ago.

Fruitful Lunches

The HKUST Convocation hosted a lunch with students in late October on the theme of “Planning the Year Ahead – Answers You Want from Alumni.” The event saw a good mix of students – local and non-local, UG and PG – and featured fruitful exchanges and experience-sharing by alumni.

Standing Committee Members met the new Vice-President for Administration and Business Mr Mark Hodgson at a dinner meeting in early November to welcome him to the HKUST community. Productive discussions between the Convocation and Mr Hodgson were initiated.

Mainland Connections

More than 80 Mainland alumni based in Hong Kong spent a delightful afternoon with Vice-President for Institutional Advancement Dr Eden Woon at the cocktail reception organized by the Mainland Alumni Association, in collaboration with the Development and Alumni Office. This occasion also marked the second anniversary of the association.

Starting in 2014, the association has been bringing a series of entrepreneurship forums to alumni who aspire to establish their own startups. Seasoned speakers, including alumnus Frank Wang of DJI, shared their challenging startup stories and entrepreneurial advice. In other news, the celebrity forum invited He-Lin Cheng to talk about the history of the First Sino-Japanese War. Participants were inspired by his valuable insights and the fruitful discussions that followed.

Engaging Opportunities

With members scattered across China, the EMBA Alumni Association has been organizing various programs to engage them. Alumni from eastern, northern and southern China were brought together in a series of conferences where they shared information on a variety of subjects, including economics and management. A successful summit forum on marketing was staged in Jiangsu by the East China branch.

As for sport, apart from its own HKUST EMBA Golf Club challenge tournament, the association also took part in the China Merchants Bank Team Tournament and the International Business School Golf Competition, with very good results. Training activities organized by the Sailing Club in Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macau also attracted many keen sailors.

The association is planning to establish a Clear Water Bay Club aimed at providing a platform to address issues of entrepreneur tutorship, risk investment, equity financing, and mergers & acquisitions.
Anniversary Special  

The HKUST MBA Alumni Toastmasters Club is continuing its tradition of providing a platform for top toastmaster talents through a variety of joint meetings and gatherings. It was encouraging to see that members have been achieving outstanding results in division contests.

One of the highlights of the year was the 100th meeting where they invited Christine Ip, one of the “Top 100 Greater China Senior Women Executives” and CEO of United Overseas Bank, to enlighten members on servant leadership.

The club celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2014 and more fabulous events will be coming up soon. All HKUST alumni are welcome to join! Stay tuned!

Sharing Professional Knowledge

Simon Law, Chairman of Master of Technology Management Alumni Association, led the executive committee to deliver a career talk for Industrial Engineering & Logistics Management (IELM) students. This was the first of a series of seminars co-organized by MTMAA and Department of IELM to be held over the next few months. The program is dynamically developed to meet students’ needs. As a result of feedback collected from students, a visit to the Shenzhen container terminal and bonded logistics park was organized.

Mentorship Proves its Worth

The mentorship program run by the Computer Science and Engineering Alumni Association, and which kicked off in 2013, has experienced overwhelming response from both mentors and mentees. The 2014 program began last March and has proved itself an incredibly rewarding experience for students, who get unparalleled opportunities to learn from alumni.

In collaboration with the Department of IELM, the Engineering Enterprise Management Alumni Association hosted the traditional residential program to engage new engineering enterprise management students on September 31.

Career sharing is one of the main focuses of EEMAA. In mid-October, Jesse Ho, Career Consultant at ADECCO Personnel Limited, shared some insightful job searching tips with students.

EEMAA celebrates its 10th anniversary in February 2015 with a dinner at Club Lusitano in Central as well as the AGM. Stay tuned and look out for coverage on this special event in the next issue of Alumni News!

Close Ties

Both accounting alumni and students had an enjoyable happy hour at the annual drinks party held by the Accounting Alumni Association in late October. The latest highlight is the annual dinner in December 2014 – coverage will appear in the next issue.

“Community Service” is the new focus in 2014, aiming to provide alumni with valuable opportunities to serve the community.

If you are interested in any of these events, please contact the association at su_acct@ust.hk or subscribe to the Facebook page!

Cozy Dinner

A group of computer engineering alumni enjoyed a cozy Friday-night dinner in August. The alumni have been keeping in close touch ever since their graduation and meet each other from time to time.
What’s Happening with You?

Let your former classmates know about the latest developments in your life – be it a wedding, baby, career promotion, new business venture, or sporting or artistic achievement. Contact us by filling in the online form at www.ust.hk/alumni/classnotes or email alumni@ust.hk

Chui Hiu Tung
2007 BSc(QFIN)
2012 MSc(IM)
We met at HKUST and so have plenty of fond memories of our time on campus. Our new life together started on February 16, 2014.

Prudence Chau
2009 BSc(BICL)
Ha Kwan Chai
2009 BSc(BICL)
It has been more than seven years since we met at HKUST. Our next chapter began on November 2, 2013.

Sophia So
2011 BBA(CM)
Tiemo Liu
2011 BBA(IS)
We got to know each other in 2009 on campus and had an incredible wedding in September 2014.

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Tiemo Liu
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King Kong
2008 BSc(BICL)
Sharon and I got married on October 18, 2014. We were grateful that many of my Biochemistry classmates were able to share our precious moments.

Alan Wong
2007 BSc(QFIN)
2012 MSc(IM)
We met at HKUST and so have plenty of fond memories of our time on campus. Our new life together started on February 16, 2014.

Priscilla Cheng
2007 BBA(FINA)
Sky Ng
2006 BEng(COMM)
Our love story began at HKUST eight years ago. We tied the knot on December 20, 2013 and our little baby just arrived in September 2014!

Eddy Wu
2002 BSc(BICL)
2006 PhD(BICL)
I am excited to share with you news of my marriage to Yun-Yueh Lu at The Helena May Hong Kong in July. We are currently in Switzerland and will move to Shanghai in 2015!

Venus Ma
2009 BBA(MGTO)
Wilson Yan
2009 BBA(MGTO)
We began our new life together on March 29, 2014 - so it seems appropriate to show how I swept Venus off her feet when we first met on campus!

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We had our wedding ceremony at Princeton, New Jersey, in the US in May! It was our delight to return to the campus that witnessed our love story.

Cindy Yang  
2009 BSc(MATH)-ST  
It was my pleasure to join HKUST students in celebrating the completion of the Cross Cultural Internship Program in New York this summer. This program is a cultural gateway for students from Asia and host companies and organizations in the US.

Wedding bells & babies

Carol Mao  
2010 MSc (MATH-FIS)  
Charlie Zhu  
2009 BEng(CPEG)-HR  
We had our wonderful wedding ceremony at Princeton, New Jersey, in the US in May! It was our delight to return to the campus that witnessed our love story.

Carman Lau  
2000 BBA(MARK)  
2006 MBA  
Time flies! We celebrated our 11th wedding anniversary in 2014 and our daughter is already three years old. This year, I made the hard decision to become a full-time housewife to take good care of my family. I’m grateful to daddy Cyrus, grandma Cori and my daughter for supporting me.

Moosa Naina Mohamed Lebbai  
1997 MSc(IEEM)  
2002 PhD(MECH)  
Thasbeeh Moosa Mohamed Lebbai  
2014 BBA(ACCT)  
We were proud to be the first “alumni parents” three years ago when our elder son Thasbeeh was admitted to HKUST. This year, we were overjoyed to see him in regalia at the Congregation and finally become a HKUST alumnus himself!

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Donald Mak  
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Corbett Rowell  
1996 MPhil(ELEC)  
I started my career as an engineer in the antenna and wireless industry in Hong Kong, and then worked as an R&D Director in Beijing. This August, I ventured farther afield and became a professor at Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan in Central Asia.

Karry Wong  
2011 BSc(MATH)-PM  
Upon graduation, I undertook a Master’s program in Mathematics at Technische Universität München, Germany. I then went for exchange-out to Israel from 2012-13, and now I am back in Israel undertaking research for my graduate thesis at Einstein Institute of Mathematics, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I hope to meet more friends from HKUST here!

Notes from afar

Deng Binbin  
2011 BSc(ECON)  
In 2013, Roland Xie, 2012 BBA(ACTT), Erikson Yan, 2011 BSc(MAEC) and I co-founded Euler Capital LLC, a boutique global asset management and investment services company, and a managing entity in the US. This year, we have expanded our investment business in Beijing by setting up two more investment firms. We look forward to sharing our passion and entrepreneurial experience with you all.

Jasper Cheng  
2014 BEng(CPEG)  
This is the selfie I took on the rooftop while shooting a time-lapse video for my alma mater. Right after finishing my final year exam, I started my own company, Jasper Cheng Production, which offers professional photography and videography services. While I was still a student, I was always borrowing cameras from the Creative Media Zone and practicing at the Chevalier Learning Commons. I am truly grateful for the learning opportunities provided by HKUST!

Fresh enterprise

Prema Agarwal  
2010 BBA(SI)  
I have set up my business Shloka Jewels, where I am also its jewellery designer. I usually work on engagement rings as well as tailor-made pieces, accessorizing local celebrities for red-carpet events. Recently, I was happy to be featured as one of Hong Kong’s leading bespoke jewelry designers by Lifestyle Asia. It is marvelous to see my designs being worn by celebrities and making a mark in Hong Kong!

Rupert Woo  
2005 BEng(CS)-MC  
Music is an integral part of my life, so it was my great honor to compete with more than 40 young conductors over the world and win the second prize, the award for Outstanding Young Conductor in Hong Kong, and the Audience Award at the Second International Conducting Competition for Chinese Music. The competition was co-organized by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and the Xi’an Conservatory of Music in July.
Opened in October, the brand new Mr & Mrs Ho Ting Silk Visitor Information Center comes equipped with high-tech facilities that let visitors obtain a deeper understanding of HKUST and its achievements, as well as to provide a valuable resource for members of the University. It features advanced and user-friendly display technology, including large LCD multi-touch tables, image walls and hologram. Here’s a pictorial guide to this new-look center!

A wide spectrum of leaflets and publications across Schools, Departments and Offices are available for visitors’ easy access.

The Center celebrated its opening in October; (from left) Vice-President for Administration and Business, Mr Mark Hodgson, President, Professor Tony Chan, Mr and Mrs Ho Ting Silk and Vice-President for Institutional Advancement, Dr Eden Weon.